GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:941
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Impact of Pollutants
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high level of pollutants not only damage health but also contributes to global warming;
(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that there is a need to invest in research on the impact of and health burden of various kinds of pollutants in the country;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government has taken steps to conduct studies for identifying and monitoring the sources of pollution in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
(e) whether the Government has taken adequate steps to strengthen the capacity for monitoring the air quality and to prevent the pollution sources in the country; and
(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) There are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct co-relationship of health exclusively due to pollution and global warming. Health effects of pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity etc. of the individuals. Pollution could be one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases.

(b)&(c) Department of Science and Technology under climate change programme has supported a National Network on Climate Change and Human Health comprising of eight research projects. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has also given financial assistance under various extramural and other research schemes on air pollution.

(d) & (e) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) is monitoring water bodies covering rivers, lakes, ponds and wells (for ground water assessment) across the country under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) at 2500 locations covering 1275 on rivers, 190 on lakes, 45 on drains, 41 on canals, 12 on tanks, 41 on creeks / seawater, 79 on ponds, 10 Water Treatment Plant (Raw Water) and 807 groundwater locations. According to an assessment of the CPCB, the water quality of 151 lakes, ponds & tanks are exceeding the prescribed limit in terms of BOD, a key indicator for organic pollution. The water quality at majority of locations of creeks and seawater are not meeting the prescribed criteria for Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Conductivity and Faecal Coliform.

(f) The major steps taken by Government for identifying and monitoring the sources of pollution, strengthen the capacity and prevent pollution in the country inter alia include: notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; formulation of environmental regulations / statutes; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending; promotion of cleaner production processes; launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017;leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules and notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste; promotion of public transport and network of metro, e-rickshaws, promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control Certificate, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance; regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles in Delhi; and ban on bursting of sound emitting crackers between 10 PM to 6 AM etc.

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